
Chorley Rural District Council.

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH'S

REPORT.

1905.

S. FOWLER & SONS, GUARDIAN OFFICE, CHORLEY.

A faint, light-colored watermark of a classical building with four columns and a triangular pediment is visible in the background.

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CHORLEY, FEBRUARY, 1906.

TO THE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL OF CHORLEY.

GENTLEMEN,

I am pleased to be able to give in my Annual Report for 1905 as favourable Statistics as I was enabled to do last year. Though the net Death-rate will appear to you to be higher than the rate I estimated for 1904, the increase is accounted for by the fact, that in the 1905 Death-rate of Residents, I have included the Deaths of persons dying in the Workhouse, Chorley, who had been removed there from one or other of the townships comprised in the Chorley Rural District; whereas, in the rate for 1904, I did not include the Deaths of persons dying in that institution. The registered number of Births was greater, and of Deaths less, in 1905 than in 1904.

Five hundred and twenty-eight (528) Births, of which two hundred and ninety-six (296) were Males, and two hundred and thirty-two (232) were Females, were registered in 1905, yielding upon an estimated population of 20,400 the Birth-rate of 25.88 per thousand per annum, as compared with the Birth-rate of 25.45 in 1904, and with an average rate of 28.6 for the ten years 1895—1904. The Birth-rate throughout England and Wales in 1905 was 27.2 per thousand of the estimated population (being a decrease of 0.7 per thousand from the rate estimated for 1904), and that of the Rural Districts, excluding the large towns, 26.3 per thousand. Though the Birth-rate in your District has increased in 1905 by 0.43, whilst the average Birth-rate throughout England and Wales has decreased 0.70 per thousand, yet your rate is still below that of the country generally, and very much less than it used to be twenty years ago.

Table A will show you that only in the Chorley Sub-district was there a Birth-rate higher than the average rate of England and Wales—and you will further see that Brindle, Rivington, and Croston Sub-Districts yield a higher rate in 1905 than in 1904. Chorley Sub-district gives almost the same rate—whilst there is a decidedly lower Birth-rate in Leyland Sub-district in 1905 than that of the preceding year. The Birth-rate throughout the country has been decreasing for several years, and that of 1905 was the lowest on record.

TABLE A.

| Sub-District. | 1905. | | 1904. | | 1903. | |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| | Number of Births. | Birth Rate. | Number of Births. | Birth Rate. | Number of Births. | Birth Rate. |
| Chorley | 156 | 30.6 | 152 | 30.7 | 159 | 32.8 |
| Brindle | 81 | 23.8 | 70 | 20.6 | 74 | 21.9 |
| Croston | 107 | 25.1 | 105 | 24.7 | 113 | 26.9 |
| Leyland | 123 | 23.9 | 131 | 25.7 | 124 | 24.6 |
| Rivington | 61 | 24.4 | 56 | 22.4 | 56 | 22.2 |
| Totals | 528 | 25.8 | 514 | 25.4 | 526 | 26.3 |

Of the whole number of Births registered in 1905 twelve (12) were illegitimate.

The number of Deaths registered in the Rural District of Chorley in 1905 was two hundred and eighty-seven (287), of which one hundred and fifty-five (155) were Males, and one hundred and thirty-two (132) were Females, giving a rate of registered Deaths of 14.07, the lowest Death-rate that I have had to record, except that of 1901, 0.33 below that estimated in 1904, and 1.33 below the average rate for the ten years preceding 1905 (1895—1904).

I give in Table B the estimated population at the middle of 1905 and of the ten preceding years—the number of Deaths registered and the estimated Death-rate for each year, and the average number of Deaths per annum, and average Death-rate for the Decade 1895—1904.

TABLE B.

| Year. | Population Estimated to middle of year. | Number of Deaths. | Death-rate. |
|---------------------------------|---|----------------------|-------------|
| 1895 | 17720 | 302 | 17.0 |
| 1896 | 17950 | 253 | 14.1 |
| 1897 | 18200 | 302 | 16.6 |
| 1898 | 18460 | 284 | 15.4 |
| 1899 | 18730 | 313 | 16.7 |
| 1900 | 19000 | 300 | 16.8 |
| 1901 | 19310 | 258 | 13.3 |
| 1902 | 19700 | 318 | 16.1 |
| 1903 | 20000 | 298 | 14.9 |
| 1904 | 20200 | 291 | 14.4 |
| Av'ge for 10 years 1895—1904 | 18927 | 291.9 | 15.4 |
| 1905 | 20400 | 287 | 14.07 |

The Death-rate throughout England and Wales in 1905 was 15.2 per thousand per annum (the lowest on record), and of the Rural Districts, excluding two hundred and seventeen towns, 14.9 per thousand. You will notice that your Death-rate was satisfactorily below both the general Death-rate, and also below the Death-rate of districts similarly situated as regards population to your own. Whilst the general rate throughout the country has decreased 1.0 per thousand in 1905, as compared with 1904, your rate has also decreased, but only by 0.33 per thousand.

There are nine (9) Deaths registered, which were not certified by a medical practitioner.

I am now required by the Local Government Board to omit the Deaths of non-residents who happen to die in your District, and to add to the registered Deaths any cases that have died in public institutions outside your District, but whose usual residence is within it. I find that two (2) Deaths occurred in the Isolation Hospital of persons not belonging to your District, and that seventeen (17) Deaths of residents in your District happened in Chorley Workhouse, the Rawcliffe Hospital, Chorley, or in other Hospitals. Consequently the number of Deaths of residents is fifteen (15) more than the number of registered Deaths; or three hundred and two (302), giving a Death-rate of 14.8 per thousand per annum. I believe this rate would be the lowest on record, except that of 1901, as hitherto I have not allotted the Deaths occurring in the Workhouse to the various townships from which the persons dying there were removed.

The Death-rate of 1905 was lowest amongst the residents in Croston Sub-district, and was very little higher in Brindle and Chorley Sub-districts. The highest Death-rate was in the Leyland Sub-district, but here it was only 0.9 per thousand above the general rate of your District.

In Table C I have given the number of Deaths of residents in 1905, the Death-rate in each Sub-district, and compared them with the number of Deaths and Death-rates of 1904.

TABLE C.

| Sub-Districts. | 1905. | | 1904. | |
|----------------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-------------|
| | Number of Deaths | Death Rate. | Number of Deaths | Death Rate. |
| Chorley | 74 | 14.5 | 72 | 14.5 |
| Brindle | 49 | 14.4 | 45 | 13.2 |
| Croston | 60 | 14.1 | 65 | 15.3 |
| Leyland | 81 | 15.7 | 71 | 13.9 |
| Rivington | 38 | 15.2 | 36 | 14.4 |

The number of Deaths registered in each township, in 1905, is given in Table D, and compared with those registered in 1904, and the increase or decrease in each township is noted.

TABLE D.

| Townships. | 1905. Number of Deaths. | 1904. Number of Deaths. | 1905. | |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | | Increase. | Decrease. |
| Charnock Richard | 7 | 11 | ... | 4 |
| Coppull | 51 | 49 | 2 | ... |
| Duxbury | 6 | 3 | 3 | ... |
| Heapey | 4 | 7 | ... | 3 |
| Welch Whittle | 3 | 1 | 2 | ... |
| Total in Chorley Sub-District ... | 71 | 71 | 7 | 7 |
| Brindle | 11 | 19 | ... | 8 |
| Hoghton | 15 | 10 | 5 | ... |
| Wheelton | 19 | 16 | 3 | ... |
| Total in Brindle Sub-District ... | 45 | 45 | 8 | 8 |
| Bretherton | 11 | 14 | ... | 3 |
| Eccleston | 16 | 20 | ... | 4 |
| Heskin | 6 | 9 | ... | 3 |
| Mawdesley | 17 | 11 | 6 | ... |
| Ulnes Walton | 8 | 10 | ... | 2 |
| Total in Croston Sub-District ... | 58 | 64 | 6 | 12 |
| Clayton-le-Woods | 12 | 17 | ... | 5 |
| Cuerden | 4 | 7 | ... | 3 |
| Euxton | 26 | 20 | 6 | ... |
| Whittle-le-Woods | 34 | 25 | 9 | ... |
| Total in Leyland Sub-District ... | 76 | 69 | 15 | 8 |
| Anderton | 8 | 21 | ... | 13 |
| Anglezarke | ... | ... | .. | ... |
| Heath Charnock | 18 | 15 | 3 | ... |
| Rivington | 12 | 6 | 6 | ... |
| Total in Rivington Sub-District ... | 38 | 42 | 9 | 13 |
| Totals | 288 | 291 | 45 | 48 |

Fewer Deaths were registered in the Croston and Rivington Sub-districts; exactly the same in the Chorley and Brindle Sub-districts; and in the Leyland Sub-district only were there more Deaths in 1905 than in 1904.

As regards townships, the following show an increased number of Deaths registered, viz:—Coppull, Duxbury, Welch Whittle, Hoghton, Wheelton, Mawdesley, Euxton, Whittle-le-Woods, Heath Charnock, and Rivington; whilst in Charnock Richard, Heapey, Brindle, Bretherton, Eccleston, Heskin, Ulnes Walton, Clayton-le-Woods, Cuerden, and Anderton the Mortality was less in 1905 than in 1904; Anglezarke yielded no Death in either year.

The slight decrease in the number of registered Deaths was due to the unusually light Mortality of the fourth quarter of the year. The number of Deaths in the second and third quarters were similar to those registered in the preceding year; but the first quarter yielded a considerably higher number of Deaths in 1905 than in 1904. In Table E I have arranged the Deaths registered in each of the quarters of 1905, and compared them with similar statistics of the three preceding years.

TABLE E.

| Year. | Deaths in First Quarter. | Deaths in Second Quarter. | Deaths in Third Quarter. | Deaths in Fourth Quarter. | Total. |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------|
| 1905 | 105 | 63 | 56 | 63 | 287 |
| 1904 | 84 | 63 | 57 | 87 | 291 |
| 1903 | 81 | 70 | 62 | 85 | 298 |
| 1902 | 100 | 73 | 57 | 88 | 318 |

In giving you the statistics of the ages at which Death occurred, I have in the next Table, Table F, included all the Deaths of residents, whether Death has occurred within or outside the Chorley Rural District.

TABLE F.

| Year. | Deaths from all Causes at Subjoined Ages. | | | | | | Total. |
|-------|---|----------------|-----------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------|
| | Under 1 Year. | 1 and under 5. | 5 and under 15. | 15 and under 25. | 25 and under 65. | 65 and upwards. | |
| 1905 | 64 | 30 | 11 | 15 | 106 | 76 | 302 |
| 1904 | 69 | 37 | 10 | 10 | 88 | 75 | 289 |
| 1903 | 69 | 35 | 14 | 15 | 82 | 71 | 286 |
| 1902 | 88 | 31 | 18 | 8 | 88 | 75 | 308 |

The Deaths of Infants under one year, and Children between one and five years of age, were fewer in 1905 than in 1904—whilst more Deaths were recorded between fifteen and twenty-five, and between twenty-five and sixty-five; the increased number of Deaths in the latter group being partly accounted for by the Rural District patients who died in the Workhouse. It is satisfactory to note that not only has the Death-rate gradually decreased, but the average age at Death has also increased in the last few years.

The Infantile Mortality, or the ratio between the number of Deaths registered under one year of age and the number of Births, in 1905, was one hundred and nineteen (119) per thousand—in 1904 it was one hundred

and thirty-four (134), and the average for the decade 1895—1904 was one hundred and thirty-three (133) per thousand. This Infantile Mortality is the lowest that I have had to report for many years and is well below that for England and Wales in 1905, viz., one hundred and twenty-eight (128), and the average for the last ten years throughout the country, one hundred and fifty (150) per thousand.

Brindle Sub-district as in 1904 again shows the lowest Infantile Mortality, seventy-five (75) per thousand; Chorley Sub-district with one hundred and twenty-two (122) is just above the average for the Rural District; whilst Leyland Sub-district, with one hundred and thirty (130), Croston and Rivington with one hundred and thirty-one (131) each, are slightly above the average Infantile Mortality for the country.

In Table V. appended to this Report the Deaths under one year of age are arranged under the various causes and the age in weeks or months of each death due to each cause is given. The most noticeable feature of this table is the large number of Deaths due to Premature Birth, viz., sixteen (16), exactly one quarter of the whole number of Deaths under one year of age. Two (2) of the Deaths were not certified by any medical practitioner.

Table G gives the causes of the Deaths of residents in the years 1904 and 1905, and shows the increased or decreased number of Deaths due to each cause in 1905 as compared with the preceding year.

TABLE G.

| Cause of Death. | 1905. Number of Deaths. | 1904. Number of Deaths. | 1905. Increase. | 1905. Decrease. |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Measles | 3 | 3 | — | — |
| Scarlet Fever | 2 | 5 | — | 3 |
| Whooping Cough | 2 | 11 | — | 9 |
| Diphtheria & Membranous Croup | 4 | 4 | — | — |
| Enteric Fever | 2 | 3 | — | 1 |
| Other Continued Fevers | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Epidemic Influenza..... | 7 | 3 | 4 | — |
| Diarrhoea..... | 3 | 5 | — | 2 |
| Enteritis | 6 | 6 | — | — |
| Puerperal Fever..... | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Erysipelas | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Other Septic Diseases | 2 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Phthisis | 18 | 17 | 1 | — |
| Other Tubercular Diseases..... | 6 | 4 | 2 | — |
| Cancer and Malignant Diseases... | 11 | 12 | — | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 21 | 19 | 2 | — |
| Pneumonia | 44 | 29 | 15 | — |
| Pleurisy | 2 | — | 2 | — |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | 2 | 3 | — | 1 |
| Alcoholism, Cirrhosis of Liver ... | 4 | 3 | 1 | — |
| Premature Birth..... | 16 | 14 | 2 | — |
| Heart Disease..... | 20 | 29 | — | 9 |
| Accidents..... | 12 | 9 | 3 | — |
| Suicides | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| All other Causes..... | 113 | 104 | 9 | — |
| Totals | 302 | 289 | 42 | 29 |

Here you will notice that there are fewer Deaths due to Scarlet Fever, Whooping Cough, and Heart Diseases in 1905 ; but that more Deaths are recorded from Pneumonia, Influenza, Accidents, and causes not otherwise specified.

Eighteen (18) Deaths were registered in 1905 from Zymotic Diseases, viz., Measles, three (3) ; Scarlet Fever, two (2) ; Whooping Cough, two (2) ; Diphtheria and Membranous Croup, five (5) ; Typhoid Fever, three (3) ; and Diarrhœa, three (3). The Death-rate of Deaths registered from Zymotic Diseases in 1905 was accordingly 0.88 per thousand per annum. Two (2) of these Deaths, however, occurred in the Isolation Hospital, in the case of persons brought thither from outside your District, viz., one (1) case of Diphtheria from Chorley and one (1) of Typhoid Fever from Adlington ; excluding these, the Zymotic Death-rate of residents was only 0.78 per thousand.

These (registered and net) Death-rates compare favourably with that obtaining in your District in 1904, viz, 1.88 and 1.68 per thousand. The Zymotic Death-rate throughout England and Wales in 1905 was 1.52, or nearly twice as heavy as that I have to report to you as the rate obtaining amongst residents in your District.

One hundred and twenty (120) cases of Infectious Disease were reported to me in 1905, viz:—Scarlet Fever sixty-one (61), Diphtheria and Membranous Croup twenty-two (22), Erysipelas twenty-four (24), Typhoid Fever twelve (12), other Fevers one (1). This number, as you will see from Table H, is very much less than the numbers reported in 1904, and than the average numbers reported to me during the decade (1895—1904), and that during the last ten years in only three cases were there fewer cases reported than in 1905.

TABLE H.

| Year. | Smallpox | Diphtheria and Membranous Croup. | Scarlet Fever. | Erysipelas. | Typhoid Fever. | Other Fevers. | Puerperal Fever. | Totals. |
|------------------------------|----------|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|---------------|------------------|---------|
| 1905 | — | 22 | 61 | 24 | 12 | 1 | — | 120 |
| Average of Decade 1895-1904. | .4 | 22 | 77 | 27 | 27 | 2 | 2 | 157 |
| 1904 | — | 19 | 115 | 38 | 11 | — | 2 | 185 |
| 1903 | 4 | 15 | 86 | 21 | 20 | — | 1 | 147 |
| 1902 | — | 24 | 175 | 31 | 27 | 1 | 3 | 261 |
| 1901 | — | 48 | 76 | 34 | 15 | — | 4 | 177 |
| 1900 | — | 16 | 29 | 19 | 28 | 4 | 1 | 97 |
| 1899 | — | 36 | 55 | 34 | 44 | 2 | 1 | 172 |
| 1898 | — | 13 | 36 | 22 | 27 | 5 | — | 103 |
| 1897 | — | 7 | 32 | 22 | 43 | 1 | 3 | 108 |
| 1896 | — | 9 | 67 | 23 | 31 | 2 | 1 | 133 |
| 1895 | — | 31 | 101 | 30 | 25 | 2 | 2 | 191 |

The largest number of cases was reported from Coppull, viz:—thirty-five (35) ; Hoghton yielded twenty-four (24), owing to an epidemic of Scarlet Fever ; Whittle-le-Woods eleven (11), Heath Charnock ten (10), Clayton-le-Woods and Bretherton seven (7) each, Charnock Richard and Euxton six (6) each, Anderton four (4), and one (1) or two (2) from several

other townships. From Duxbury, Welch Whittle, Heskin, and Anglezarke no cases were reported. In Table I the number of reported cases of each Infectious Disease is placed under the township in which they occurred, and the total numbers reported from each township are compared with similar totals in 1904.

TABLE I.

| Townships. | Diphtheria and Membranous Croup. | Scarlet Fever. | Ery-sipelas | Typhoid Fever. | Continu'd Fever. | Puer- peral Fevers. | 1905 Totals. | 1904 Totals. |
|---------------------|----------------------------------|----------------|-------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Charnock Richard | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | 6 | 12 |
| Coppull..... | — | 20 | 8 | 7 | — | — | 35 | 45 |
| Duxbury | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Heapey..... | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — | 2 | 1 |
| Welch Whittle... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Brindle | — | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 | 6 |
| Hoghton | — | 24 | — | — | — | — | 24 | 3 |
| Wheelton | 3 | 1 | 2 | 1 | — | — | 7 | 20 |
| Bretherton | — | — | — | — | 1 | — | 1 | 2 |
| Eccleston | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 1 |
| Heskin | — | — | — | — | — | — | — | 3 |
| Mawdesley | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Ulnes Walton .. | — | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — |
| Clayton-le-Woods | 2 | 4 | 1 | — | — | — | 7 | 22 |
| Cuerden | 2 | — | — | — | — | — | 2 | — |
| Euxton | — | 1 | 4 | 1 | — | — | 6 | 20 |
| Whittle-le-Woods | 9 | — | 2 | — | — | — | 11 | 29 |
| Anderton | — | — | 1 | 3 | — | — | 4 | 8 |
| Heath Charnock | 2 | 6 | 2 | — | — | — | 10 | 5 |
| Rivington..... | 1 | — | — | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Totals | 22 | 61 | 24 | 12 | 1 | — | 120 | 185 |

No case of Smallpox has been notified in your District during 1905 or the preceding year. Scarlet Fever has been much less prevalent in 1905 than in any year since 1900. Sixty-one (61) cases were reported to me, of which twenty-four (24) occurred in Hoghton, twenty (20) in Coppull, six (6) in Heath Charnock, four (4) each in Charnock Richard and Clayton-le-Woods, and one (1) each in Brindle, Wheelton, and Euxton. The cases in Coppull and the other townships were notified at various times throughout the year; but all those at Hoghton occurred in a few weeks, and the number was due to one or two children being attacked with the disease and not being seen by any medical practitioner—no isolation was enforced, and other children from the infected houses were allowed to attend school and spread the infection. Twenty-four (24) cases were reported from this township, of which one (1) proved fatal. The houses were fumigated after the infective period was over, and disinfectants were supplied in each case. The work of fumigation, etc., has been carried out by the Sewage Works attendant nearest the infected house. I may bring again to your notice that there are in your District no means of disinfecting clothing satisfactorily. You have given me authority to have infected clothing and bedding removed to the Chorley Steam Disinfecting Apparatus when I consider such removal absolutely necessary; I fear this procedure will entail considerable cost, both for the disinfection and for the taking the clothes and bedding from and back to the infected house. I am making enquiries from other

districts of similar areas and similarly situated to your District, as to the method of disinfection employed there, and I will report to you the result.

Either I or the Deputy Medical Officer, Dr. Webb, have visited each case, and where no sufficient isolation could be maintained, have recommended the removal of the patient to the Chorley Joint Hospital. Of the twenty-four (24) cases reported from the Chorley Sub-district nineteen (19) were received into Hospital; six (6) out of the twenty-six (26) from Brindle Sub-district; all of the five (5) cases from the Leyland Sub-district, and two (2) out of six (6) from the Rivington Sub-district.

Two (2) cases of Scarlet Fever died, viz, one (1) at Hoghton and one (1) at the Isolation Hospital, the patient having been removed thither from Clayton-le-Woods. The mortality from Scarlet Fever was accordingly 3.3 per cent. of the reported cases.

Twenty-two (22) cases of Diphtheria and Membranous Croup were reported during the year. You will see from Table H that nearly half of the cases were reported from the township of Whittle-le-Woods, viz, nine (9), and that there were cases reported in the neighbouring townships of Wheelton three (3), Clayton-le-Woods two (2), and Heapey one (1). Five (5) Deaths were registered from these Diseases, one (1) of which, however, occurred in the Isolation Hospital, in a case brought from Chorley. The mortality from these Diseases was 19 per cent. of the reported cases. Five (5) cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, viz, three (3) from Chorley Sub-district, and two (2) from Rivington Sub-district. In my last report I suggested that a supply of Diphtheritic Antitoxin should be regularly obtained, and kept for the use of medical practitioners in the treatment of this Disease. I do not know whether you consider that it is in your province to provide means for the combatting of this Disease; but as the cost would be nominal, and as the knowledge that at any time the Antitoxin could be procured from me with the least possible delay would enable the most successful means of treating Diphtheria to be within reach of the Medical Practitioners, I think that this suggestion is worthy of your consideration.

Twelve (12) cases of Typhoid Fever have been reported to me during 1905; of which seven (7) occurred in Coppull, three (3) in Anderton, and one (1) each in Wheelton and Euxton. Five (5) of the cases were removed to the Isolation Hospital, viz, three (3) from Coppull, and two (2) from Anderton. Two (2) cases ended fatally, giving a mortality of 16.6 per cent. of the reported cases. One of the Deaths occurred in the Isolation Hospital in the case of a patient removed from Coppull, and the other Death was in Coppull.

Each case was visited by us, disinfectants were supplied, and after recovery the houses were fumigated, etc. In some of the cases sanitary defects were discovered, and have been remedied.

Measles has been prevalent in some townships during the year; notably at Euxton, where I recommended both schools to be closed during the epidemic. Three (3) Deaths resulted. The disease was generally of a mild type.

Whooping Cough caused two (2) Deaths during the year.

Acting upon my recommendation, you have closed the following schools owing to the prevalence of Infectious Diseases, and for the periods named below:—Mawdesley Roman Catholic School, May 8th—May 22nd, Mumps; Euxton National School, September 8th—September 25th,

Measles ; Euxton Roman Catholic School, September 15th—October 2nd, Measles ; Hoghton National School, October 27—December 11th, Scarlet Fever. In the last case the closure was at first ordered from October 27th to November 22nd, but finding the Scarlet Fever had not sufficiently abated, I recommended your Council to continue the closure till December 11th.

CHORLEY JOINT HOSPITAL.—Forty (40) cases of Infectious Diseases have been removed from the various townships into the Isolation Hospital during the year. In the following table, Table J, I give the number of cases of each disease from each township.

TABLE J.

| Townships. | Scarlet Fever. | Diphtheria and Membranous Croup. | Typhoid Fever. | Ery-sipelas. | Pneumonia. | Totals. |
|----------------------|----------------|----------------------------------|----------------|--------------|------------|-----------|
| Charnock Richard... | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Coppull | 15 | — | 3 | — | — | 18 |
| Hoghton | 5 | — | — | — | — | 5 |
| Clayton-le-Woods ... | 4 | — | — | — | — | 4 |
| Cuerden | — | 1 | — | — | — | 1 |
| Euxton | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Whittle-le-Woods ... | — | 1 | — | 1 | — | 2 |
| Anderton | — | — | 2 | — | — | 2 |
| Heath Charnock ... | 2 | — | — | — | 1 | 3 |
| Totals..... | 31 | 2 | 5 | 1 | 1 | 40 |

Two (2) of these cases died in Hospital, viz, one (1) from Clayton-le-Woods of Scarlet Fever, and one (1) from Coppull of Typhoid Fever. The Mortality in Hospital was 5 per cent. of the cases sent from your District.

HOUSE ACCOMMODATION.—I have nothing further to add to the remarks I made about this subject in my Annual Report for 1904. In one or two of the more populous townships there are a very few houses that are approaching the period when they will have to be condemned as unfit for habitation ; but as a rule the housing of the working classes in your District is not open to severe criticism, and is quite up to the average. There have been several new houses built at Coppull, where there was some overcrowding, and I think that the increase of population is being met by an increase of house accommodation.

DRAINAGE.—Except in one or two townships where the physical condition of the land renders drainage a difficult matter, I consider that your District is sufficiently well drained, and you have been making additional Sewers, etc., during the year. At Rawlinson Lane, Heath Charnock, the drainage scheme, which has been so long delayed through your inability to obtain a lease of the land necessary for tanks and irrigation purposes, has now been finished, and the various houses on the line of pipes have been connected with your new main sewer—the old drain having been relegated to carrying off the surface water.

COPPULL.—The plans and specifications for the enlargement of the Purification Works at Tanyard Brook have been submitted to the Local Government Board. An Enquiry has been held and a loan granted. The work will be prosecuted without delay ; and this township, which has so rapidly increased in population, will soon be more adequately provided with means for purifying the increased quantity of sewage. In addition to this work, Sewers have been constructed in other parts of the township during the year.

WHITTLE-LE-WOODS.—The Sewage Works in this township have been improved by the addition of a Detritus Chamber.

RIVINGTON.—The Liverpool Corporation, whose water reservoirs are in Rivington, have undertaken the drainage of this township, and during the year have constructed Sewers and conveyed the sewage to outfall works in the neighbouring township.

SCAVENGING.—Until two years ago the whole District was without any public system of scavenging, the duty of emptying bogholes, ashpits, etc., being laid upon the occupiers of dwelling-houses. In Coppull, the most populous township in your District, you have contracted with a man to do this work regularly, and the scavenging has been carried out here satisfactorily, and to the great benefit of the inhabitants of this township. In 1905 you have further directed that the townships of Rivington and Euxton should be scavenged by contract. In my opinion, it would be distinctly advantageous if you were to adopt the same course in more of the townships under your jurisdiction, and I particularly recommend to your consideration the townships of Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods, Wheelton, and Anderton.

WATER SUPPLY.—The three public water supplies continue to afford to the townships of Anderton, Heath Charnock, Whittle-le-Woods, Clayton-le-Woods, Heapey, Wheelton, and Coppull a plentiful supply of good water, though in the latter township, for a short time during the drought, the amount of water was limited to the maximum agreed upon with the Standish Local Board. Owing to the considerable addition to the population in Coppull, it is most desirable that an amended agreement be made with the Standish Local Board, by which the maximum amount of water supplied per day may be much increased. You are in treaty with this Board to obtain such an increase. At Whittle-le-Woods some extensions of the mains have been made to supply the Duke of York Inn and cottages, etc., and during the year notices have been served on several owners of property not adequately supplied with water for domestic purposes to provide water. A Sub-Committee visited Clayton Bottoms in the early part of 1905, in response to a request of the Clayton-le-Woods Parish Council, but recommended your Council that, owing to the expense of carrying the mains to the very few houses, this extension should be deferred for the present. The water supplies to this portion of Clayton-le-Woods were analysed, and found tolerably satisfactory, and some slight improvements were ordered to be made. Several owners of property in Clayton Green had not connected their houses with the water mains passing close to these houses, and you have served notices on them to connect with the public water supply.

WESTERN WATER SCHEME.—The western townships in your District are insufficiently supplied with water, and you have had for many months this subject under your consideration. An excellent scheme has been drawn up by your Surveyor, and submitted to you; plans, specifications, and estimates sent to the Local Government Board, and an Enquiry held by one of the Inspectors. The townships comprised in this scheme are Euxton, Charnock Richard, Welch Whittle, Heskin, Eccleston, Ulnes Walton, and Bretherton, in all of which the water supply is poor and insufficient. The Urban Council of Croston was communicated with to ascertain whether it would include that township in this scheme; but the offer was declined. Shortly before the Public Enquiry, however, the Croston Council again interviewed your Council, and you resolved to offer the following very reasonable terms to them, viz, to provide Croston with water at the cost price to your Council from the Manchester Corporation to the amount not exceeding 25,000 gallons per day, upon the payment of an annual subsidy to your Council of £120 per annum for thirty years; the cost and maintenance of all works and mains outside Croston being paid for by your Council, and the pipes, etc., in Croston to be paid for by the Croston Council.

I trust that this work will be carried out during the ensuing year, to the greatest benefit of the inhabitants of the several townships comprised in the scheme.

Certificates of sufficient water supply have been granted to the owners of forty-one (41) houses, viz:—Coppull twenty-four (24), Anderton nine (9), Eccleston, Wheelton, Charnock Richard and Euxton two (2) each.

The Factories and Workshops, of which there are not very many in your district, are generally in a good condition, well ventilated, and properly drained. In a few instances the privy accommodation has been found to be insufficient or unsanitary, and after representation to the Millowners, this condition has been remedied.

Forty-three (43) samples of food and drugs have been taken by the County Police, and submitted to Analysis, viz:—Milk nine (9), Lard seven (7), Butter six (6), Whisky six (6), Rum three (3), Pepper three (3), Ginger, Vinegar, and Jam two (2) each; and Cheese, Gin, and Coffee one (1) each. One person has been prosecuted for selling adulterated Butter, and has been fined £5 and costs.

I append to my Report copies of the six Tables drawn up by order of the Local Government Board, and in the last Table, Table K, I arrange under each township a list of Nuisances abated, and sanitary improvements made by order of your Council upon the report of the Inspector of Nuisances, etc.

TABLE K.

| Townships. | Drains Laid, Repaired, or Cleaned Out. | Privies, etc., Erected or Repaired. | Houses Infected with Fever Fumigated and Disinfected. | Water Supply Improved | Other Nuisances Abated. | Totals. |
|-------------------|---|--|--|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|---------|
| Charnock Richard | — | 6 | 1 | — | — | 7 |
| Coppull | 1 | 15 | 20 | — | — | 36 |
| Duxbury | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 |
| Heapey | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Brindle | 1 | 1 | 1 | — | 1 | 4 |
| Hoghton | 1 | — | 13 | — | — | 14 |
| Wheelton | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | — | 5 |
| Bretherton | 15 | 1 | — | — | — | 16 |
| Eccleston | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | 2 |
| Mawdesley | 1 | — | — | — | — | 1 |
| Clayton-le-Woods | 1 | 1 | 3 | — | 3 | 8 |
| Euxton | 4 | 11 | 1 | — | 1 | 17 |
| Whittle-le-Woods | 12 | — | 5 | 7 | 4 | 28 |
| Anderton | — | — | 1 | — | — | 1 |
| Heath Charnock.. | — | 4 | 3 | — | — | 7 |
| Totals | 39 | 41 | 52 | 7 | 10 | 149 |

I have the honour to be,

Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

JAMES A. HARRIS, M.D. (LOND.),

Medical Officer of Health,

